

MARVEL

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PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN

ENTER: THE
HERMIT!

60c

97

U.K. 30p
CAN 75c

DEC



Stan Lee PRESENTS:

HERMIT-AGE!

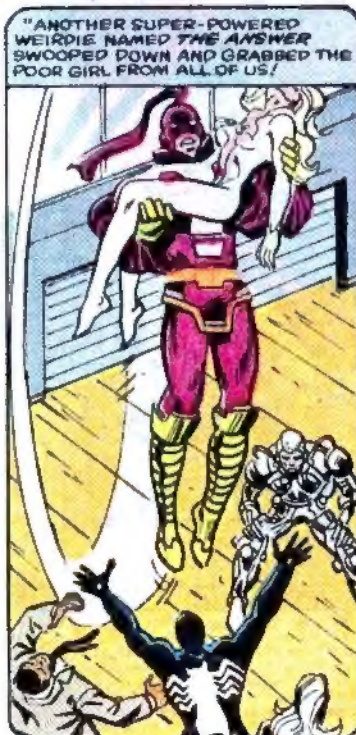
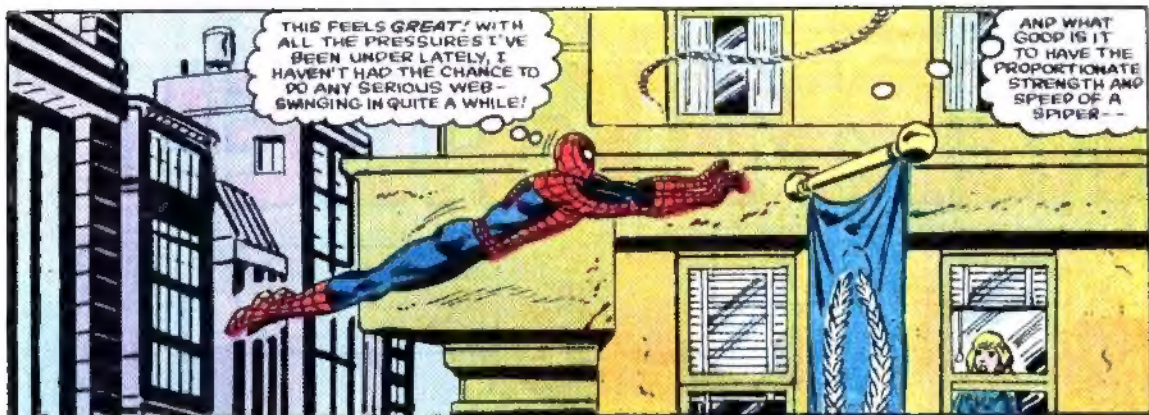
THE PIGEONS IN NEW YORK CITY
ARE A HARDY BREED. THEY'RE
OVERFED AND ARROGANT, AND
RARELY MAKE WAY FOR ANYTHING.

BUT EVEN THESE BLASE
BIRDS OF A FEATHER FLY
AWAY TOGETHER WHEN
THEIR ROOSTING SPOT IS
INVADED BY... THE
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!



STORY
A. MILGROM
PENCILS
H. TRIMPE
INKS
J. MOONEY
LETTERS
J. CHIANG
COLORS
B. SHAREN
EDITOR
D. FINGEROTH
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OVER (OR
OVERLOOKED)
BY:
J. SHOOTER

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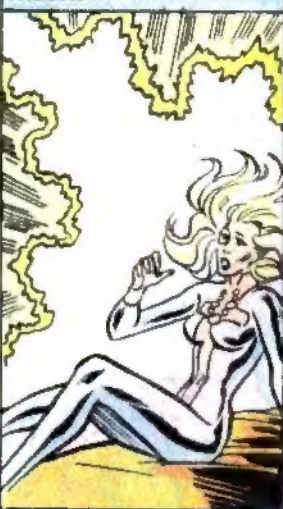
"THE KINGPIN WANTED DAGGER TO USE HER LIGHT POWERS TO RESTORE HIS WIFE TO FULL HEALTH AND SANITY--"

"--AND HE FOUGHT SILVERMANE TO KEEP THE BIONIC BADDIE FROM TAKING THE LAST OF DAGGER'S LIGHT FROM HER!"



"HE LOST."

"AND WHILE I WAS TRYING TO STOP SILVY, THE ANSWER SACRIFICED HIS OWN LIGHT-- AND LIFE-- TO RESTORE DAGGER--"



"...WHO IN TURN GAVE SILVERMANE BACK THE LIGHT SHE HAD TAKEN FROM HIM, RESTORING HIS SANITY, ENDING HIS RAMPAGE!"

"BUT BECAUSE DAGGER DIDN'T ALSO RESTORE HIS WIFE, THE KINGPIN WAS--"



"--WELL... A LITTLE BIT PEEVED!"

"HE SWORE VENGEANCE AGAINST THE CAT AND ME!"



WHY HE BLAMED US FOR HIS TROUBLES IS BEYOND ME!

SHEESH! SOME GUYS ARE JUST NEVER SATISFIED!

TAKE ME FOR INSTANCE, THE ANSWER IS GONE, THE KINGPIN SUFFERED SOME SERIOUS SET-BACKS, AND WHILE THE THREAT OF SILVERMANE STILL EXISTS--

AT LEAST HE'S NO LONGER A WANTON ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION CRUSHING EVERYTHING IN HIS PATH.



BUT MY OWN PETTY PROBLEMS KEEP PREYING ON MY MIND...

LIKE THE RIFT THAT'S FORMED BETWEEN ME AND MY AUNT MAY...

SHE'S BEEN UPSET WITH ME EVER SINCE I TOLD HER I WAS QUITTING GRADUATE SCHOOL.



HOTEL EMRAS



* SEE THE MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS LIMITED SERIES--DANNY.





FUNNY, THOUGH, DESPITE MY CASE OF THE SHIVERS, I STILL FEEL LIKE DRINKING AN ICE COLD BOTTLE OF LOTTO-COLA!

WONDER WHY THAT THOUGHT SUDDENLY POPPED INTO MY HEAD?

EVEN AS HE SWINGS OFF INTO THE DISTANCE, THERE ARE MEN NEARBY WHO COULD ANSWER SPIDEY'S QUESTION...

...MEN WHO COULD EXPLAIN TO HIM THE WAY THE BILLBOARD WORKED ITS SUBLIMINAL WILES ON HIM, THOUGH HE WAS NOT CONSCIOUSLY AWARE OF ITS MESSAGE.

THEY ARE BRIGHT, HARD MEN, NATTILY CLOTHED IN THREE-PIECE SUITS.

AND EVEN NOW THEY MAKE FURTHER PLANS TO ENSLAVE THE MINDS OF AN UNSUSPECTING PUBLIC!

WELL, WE'VE PUT IT OFF LONG ENOUGH!

RIGHT! HE CAN'T STALL US ANY LONGER!

LET'S GET HIM!



AND, DOWN THE HALL...

THEY'LL BE COMING FOR ME ANY MINUTE, I JUST KNOW IT!



WHY CAN'T THEY STAY AWAY-- WHY CAN'T THEY LEAVE ME ALONE?!

IS THAT TOO MUCH TO ASK? I NEVER--



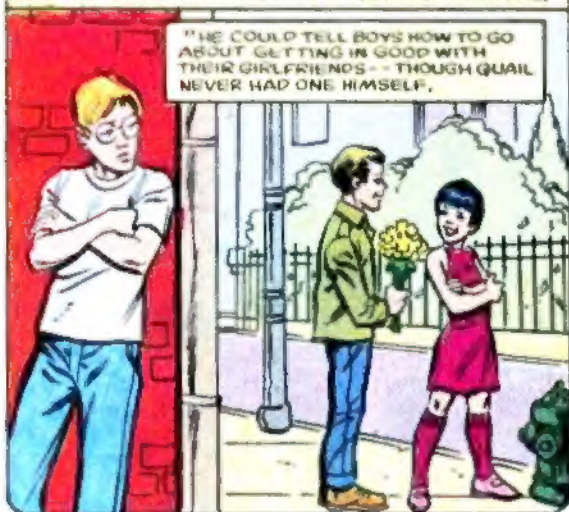
KNOCK KNOCK

THEY'RE HERE!

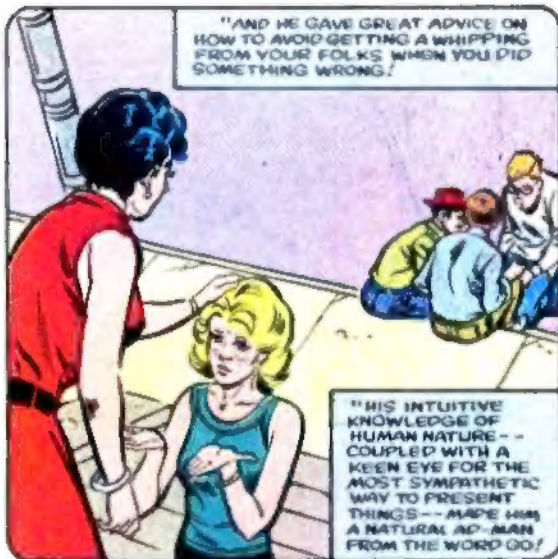


"BUT SOMEHOW, EVEN THEN, THE OTHER KIDS FOUND OUT HE HAD A NATURAL GIFT FOR SOLVING PROBLEMS.

"HE COULD TELL BOYS HOW TO GO ABOUT GETTING IN GOOD WITH THEIR GIRLFRIENDS -- THOUGH QUAIL NEVER HAD ONE HIMSELF.



"AND HE GAVE GREAT ADVICE ON HOW TO AVOID GETTING A WHIPPING FROM YOUR FOLKS WHEN YOU DID SOMETHING WRONG.



"HIS INTUITIVE KNOWLEDGE OF HUMAN NATURE -- COUPLED WITH A KEEN EYE FOR THE MOST SYMPATHETIC WAY TO PRESENT THINGS -- MADE HIM A NATURAL AD-MAN FROM THE WORD GO!

"WELL, WORD OF MOUTH BEING WHAT IT IS, BEFORE LONG, THE KIDS WERE LINED UP AROUND THE BLOCK SEEKING HIS ADVICE!



"THE ONLY TROUBLE WAS... OL' TIMID TIMOTHY HATED THE ATTENTION!

"HE PREFERRED HIS SOLITUDE, BUT WAS SO SOUGHT AFTER, HE COULDN'T GET ANY!"



HUH! IMAGINE THAT!

YEAH, BUT IT EVEN GETS WEIRDER!

QUAIL GOT SO TIRED OF THE ATTENTION THAT WHEN HE GOT OLD ENOUGH, HE LEFT THE CITY --



"--AND MOVED TO TIBET!



"AND I DON'T MEAN HE TOOK UP RESIDENCE IN ANY CIVILIZED AREA, EITHER.

"HE LIVED IN A CAVE ATOP A REMOTE, SNOW-COVERED MOUNTAIN, GREW A LONG BEARD, DRESSED HIMSELF IN RAGGED ROBES, AND BECAME A HERMIT!"



"HIS PEACE LASTED FOR A SHORT WHILE--"

"... BUT BY THIS TIME, HIS FAME AS A BRILLIANT ADVISER HAD SPREAD SO FAR AND WIDE THAT EVEN HERE, PROVES OF HUMANITY SOUGHT HIM OUT!"



"IF ANYTHING, THE BEARD AND ROBES ADDED TO HIS IMAGE AS A WISE SEER! AFTER ALL, HE REALLY LOOKED THE PART!"

"MAYBE THAT'S WHEN HE BECAME SO ADEPT AT PACKAGING THINGS SO THEY WOULD SELL, HAVING SEEN THE RESULTS FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE!"

FINALLY HE LEFT THE MOUNTAINS, MOVED BACK HERE, AND FELL INTO ADVERTISING. HE WAS A *NATURAL*... AND BESIDES, PEOPLE IN THE BIZ MOSTLY LEAVE HIM ALONE-- EXCEPT ON PRESENTATION DAYS LIKE THIS!

SPEAKING OF WHICH, WE'D BETTER HUSTLE ALONG TO THAT MEETING OURSELVES!



RIGHT!

MEANWHILE, IN AN ALLEYWAY IN THE WEST 20'S...



OKAY, MEN LET'S GET THAT STUFF LOADED ONTO THE TRUCK. NICE AND EASY DOES IT, THOUGH! NO NEED TO RUSH THINGS TOO MUCH!

COINCIDENTALLY, OUR WEB-HEADED WONDER IS SWINGING OVER THAT SELF-SAME ALLEY...

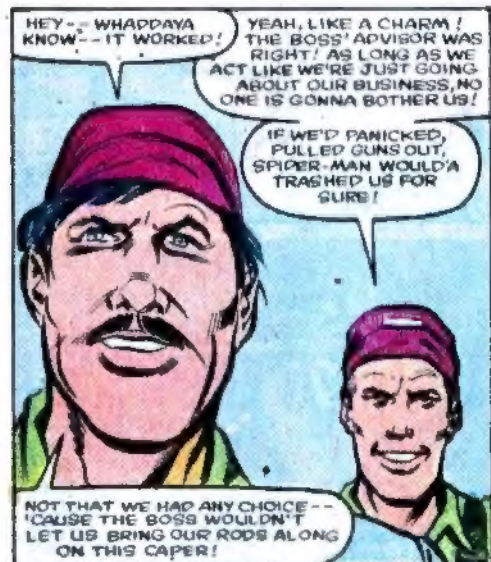


... AND WITH ALL MY OTHER PROBLEMS, I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW I'M GONNA PAY THE RENT THIS--

HEY! I'M GETTING A MILD BUZZ FROM MY SPIDER-SENSE! IS THERE SOME DANGER HEADING MY WAY?



NOTHING IN SIGHT EXCEPT THOSE MEN CLEARING THE TRASH FROM THE BACK OF THAT BUILDING?



WHILE, BACK AT AN IMPOSING
STRUCTURE ON MADISON
AVENUE



GREAT PRESENTATION,
TIMOTHY!

REALLY? THE CLIENT LOVED
IT! SWALLOWED IT HOOK, LINE,
AND SINKER!

ER, I'M GLAD
YOU ALL LIKED IT!
W-WOULD IT BE ALL
RIGHT IF I WENT HOME
A BIT EARLY TODAY? I'M
FEELING RATHER
TIRED.

SURE, TAKE THE
REST OF THE DAY OFF!
YOU EARNED IT!

HOW 'BOUT THE
REST OF US GO OUT
AND QUAFF A FEW TO
CELEBRATE!

WELL, THANK
GODNESS THAT'S
OVER! IF ONLY THEY'D
LEAVE ME COMPLETELY
ALONE--



-- BUT I GUESS
THAT'S JUST
TOO MUCH TO
ASK FOR!

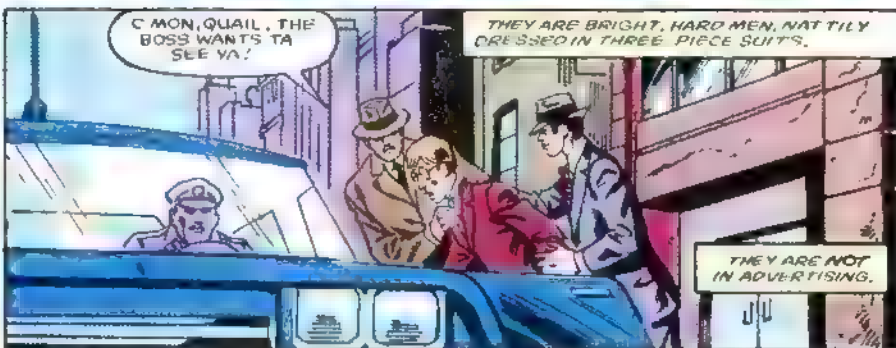
AT LEAST
THE MEN AT THE
AGENCY AREN'T
AS BAD AS ..

OH MY GOSH!
IT'S HIM!
NO! PLEASE!
NOT AGAIN!



C'MON, QUAIL, THE
BOSS WANTS TA
SEE YA!

THEY ARE BRIGHT, HARD MEN, NAT TILY
DRESSED IN THREE-PIECE SUITS.



THEY ARE NOT
IN ADVERTISING.

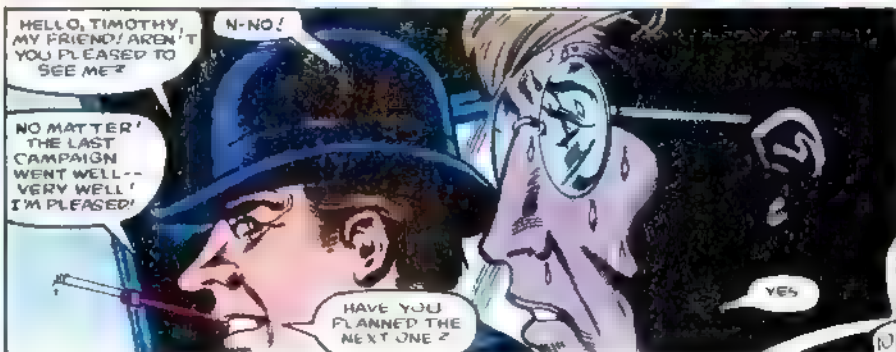
HELLO, TIMOTHY,
MY FRIEND! AREN'T
YOU PLEAS'D TO
SEE ME?

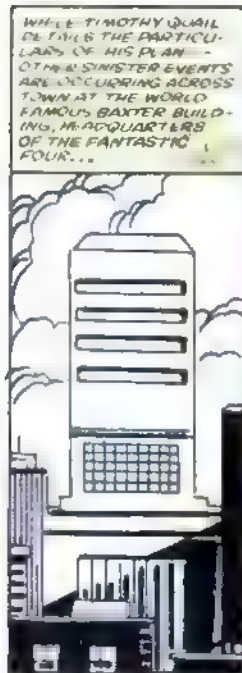
N-NO!

NO MATTER!
THE LAST
CAMPAIGN
WENT WELL--
VERY WELL!
I'M PLEAS'D!

HAVE YOU
PLANNED THE
NEXT ONE?

YES





WHILE TIMOTHY QUAIL
DEVELOPS THE PARTICULARS
OF HIS PLAN --
OTHER SINISTER EVENTS
ARE OCCURRING ACROSS
TOWN AT THE WORLD
FAMOUS BAXTER BUILD-
ING, HEADQUARTERS
OF THE FANTASTIC
FOUR...



WITHIN ONE CHAMBER OF THE
BUILDING, THE ALIEN ENTITY
WHICH HAD BEEN SPIDER-MAN'S
NEW COSTUME IS HELD CAPTIVE...

AT THE SOUND OF
FOOTSTEPS ECHOING
DOWN A HALLWAY, THE
CREATURE STARTS --

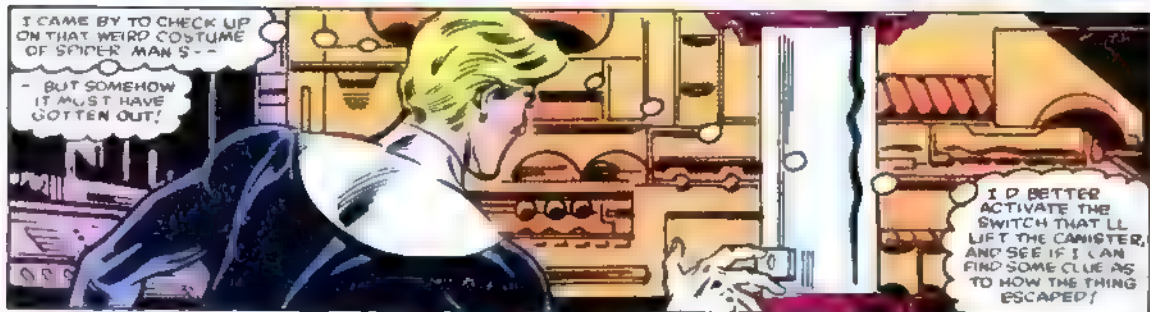


THEN...

CHIA-KLIK!



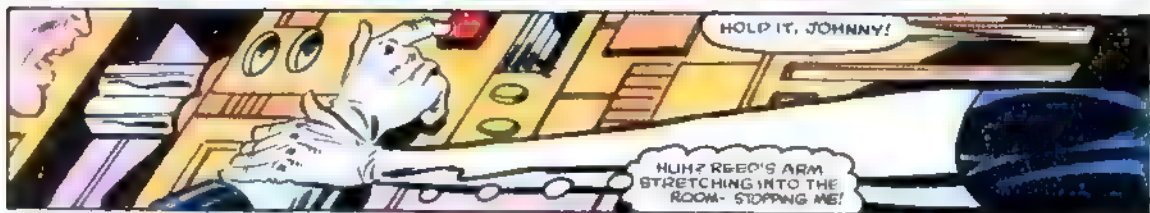
OH, NO!
IT'S GONE!



I CAME BY TO CHECK UP ON
THAT WEIRD COSTUME
OF SPIDER-MAN'S --

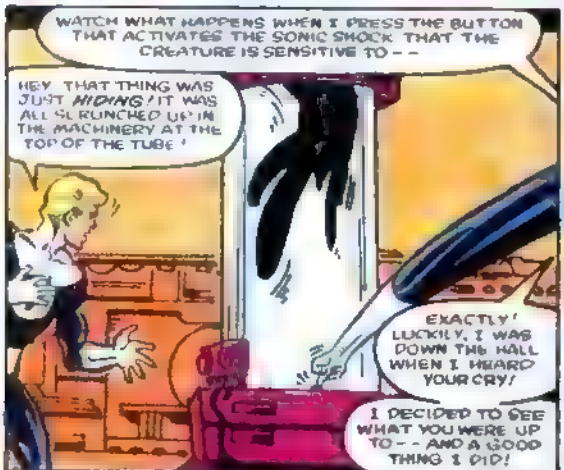
BUT SOMEHOW
IT MUST HAVE
GOTTEN OUT!

I'D BETTER
ACTIVATE THE
SWITCH THAT LL
LIFT THE CANISTER,
AND SEE IF I CAN
FIND SOME CLUE AS
TO HOW THE THING
ESCAPED!



HOLD IT, JOHNNY!

HUH? REED'S ARM
STRETCHING INTO THE
ROOM - STOPPING ME!

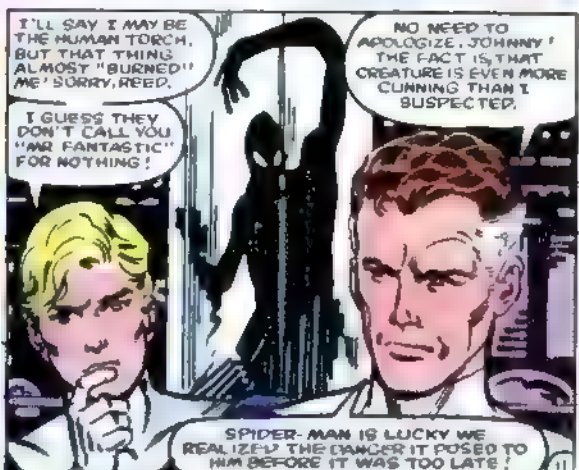


WATCH WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I PRESS THE BUTTON
THAT ACTIVATES THE SONIC SHOCK THAT THE
CREATURE IS SENSITIVE TO --

HEY THAT THING WAS
JUST HIDING! IT WAS
ALL SLRUNKED UP IN
THE MACHINERY AT THE
TOP OF THE TUBE!

EXACTLY!
LUCKILY, I WAS
DOWN THE HALL
WHEN I HEARD
YOUR CRY!

I DECIDED TO SEE
WHAT YOU WERE UP
TO -- AND A GOOD
THING I DID!



I'LL SAY I MAY BE
THE HUMAN TORCH,
BUT THAT THING
ALMOST "BURNED"
ME! SORRY, REED.

I GUESS THEY
DON'T CALL YOU
"MR FANTASTIC"
FOR NOTHING!

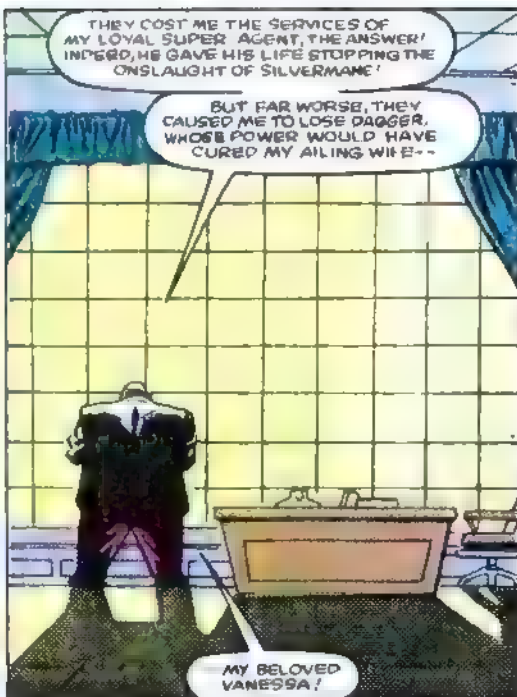
NO NEED TO
APOLOGIZE, JOHNNY!
THE FACT IS, THAT
CREATURE IS EVEN MORE
CUNNING THAN I
SUSPECTED.

SPIDER-MAN IS LUCKY WE
REALIZED THE DANGER IT POSED TO
HIM BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE!



AND AT THE MIDTOWN HEADQUARTERS OF THE KINGPIN OF CRIME...

CURSE THEM! CURSE SPIDER-MAN AND THE BLACK CAT!



THEY COST ME THE SERVICES OF MY LOYAL SUPER AGENT, THE ANSWER! INDEED, HE GAVE HIS LIFE STOPPING THE ONSLAUGHT OF SILVERMANE!

BUT FAR WORSE, THEY CAUSED ME TO LOSE DAGGER, WHOSE POWER WOULD HAVE CURED MY AILING WIFE--

MY BELOVED VANESSA!



MY REVENGE WILL BE TERRIBLE AND EXQUISITELY, EXCRUCIATINGLY SLOW! EVEN NOW, SPIDER MAN AND THE CAT ARE FALLING PREY TO THE PLANS I LAID FOR THEM SO MANY MONTHS AGO!

IF I HAD EVER HAD ANY THOUGHTS OF RELENTING... THOSE THOUGHTS ARE GONE FOREVER!



BUT I FIND MYSELF IN NEED OF A NEW AGENT TO REPLACE THE ANSWER--PREFERABLY ONE WHO WILL ALSO ACT AS MY CHIEF ASSASSIN.

WHERE CAN I FIND SUCH AN AGENT... WHERE?



AND IN THE KINGPIN'S KEEP, REINFORCED FORTRESS LEVEL OF THIS VERY BUILDING, EVENTS ARE TAKING PLACE WHICH MAY SUPPLY THE MIGHTY CRIME LORD WITH THE SOLUTION TO HIS PROBLEM IF NOT THE ANSWER!

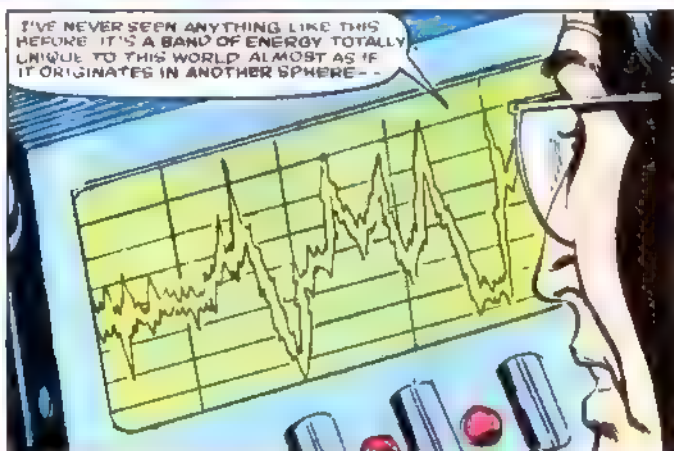
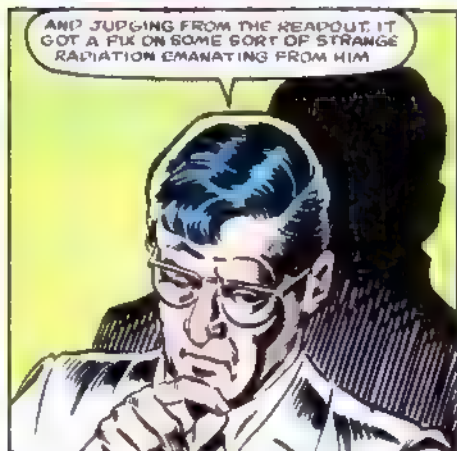
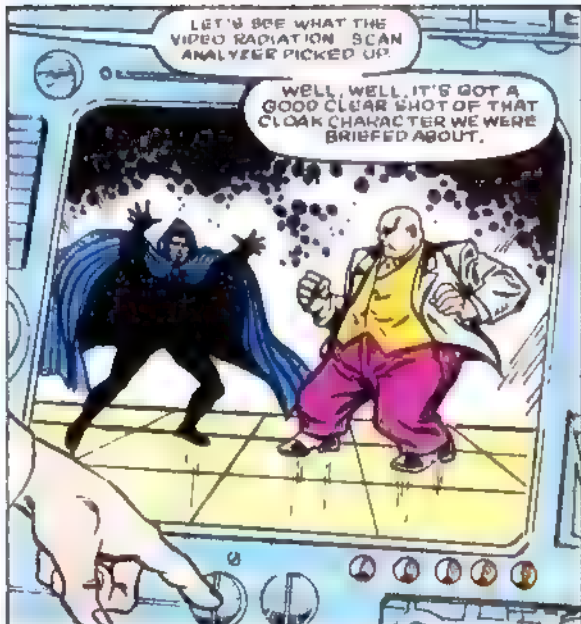
I CAN'T BELIEVE THE MESS THEY MADE IN HERE!

THIS PLACE IS BUILT TO WITHSTAND EARTHQUAKES--YET LOOK AT THE DAMAGE THAT WAS DONE TO IT!

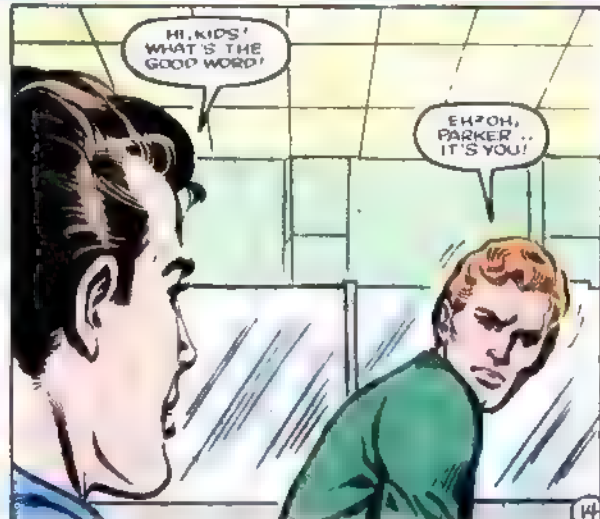
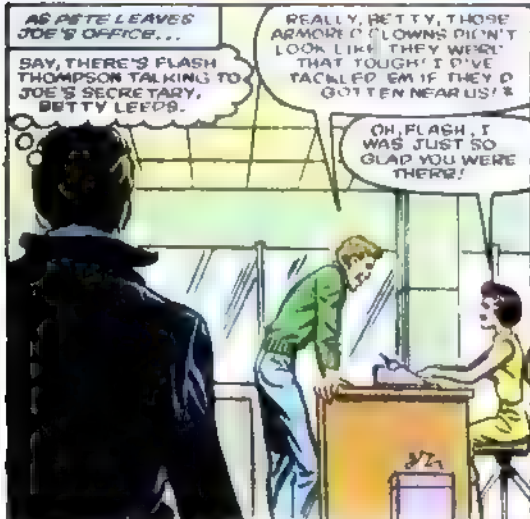
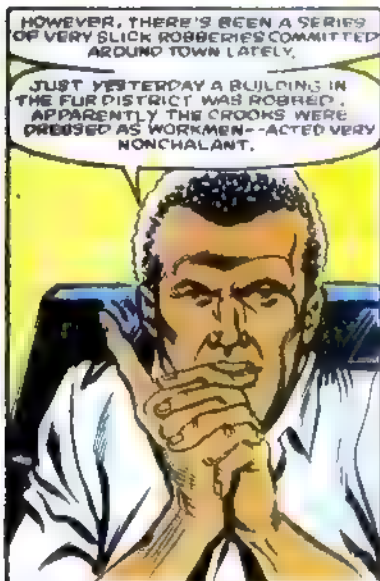
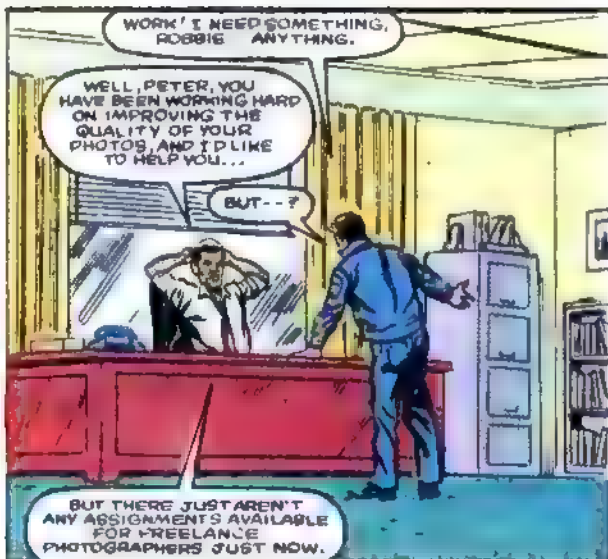


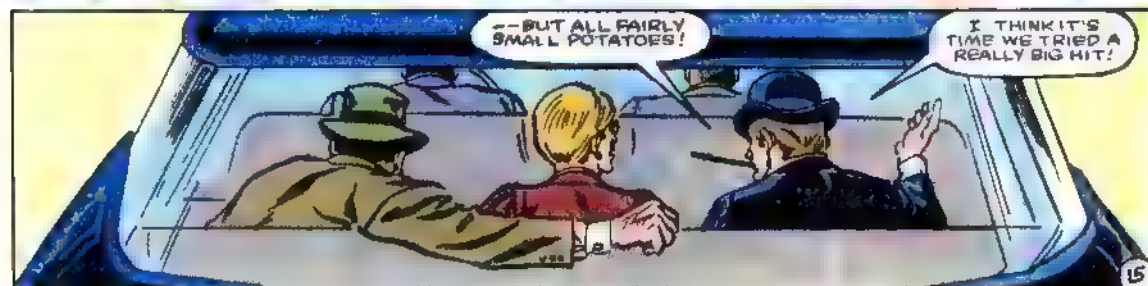
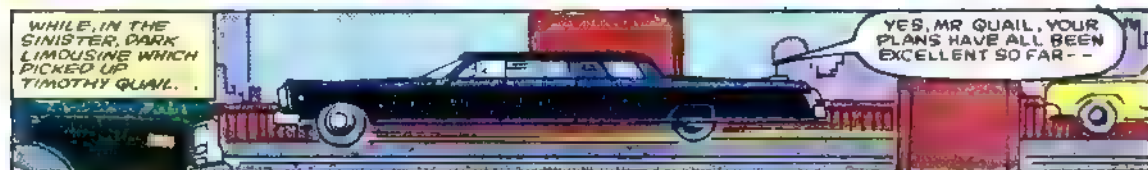
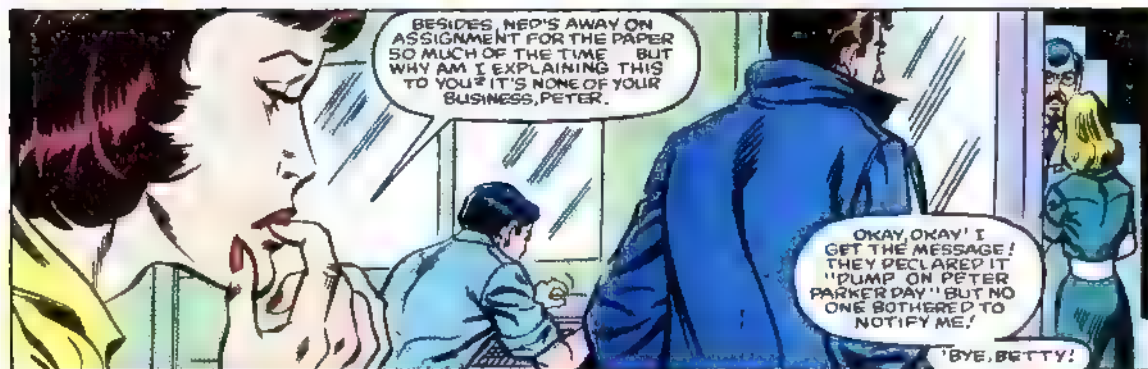
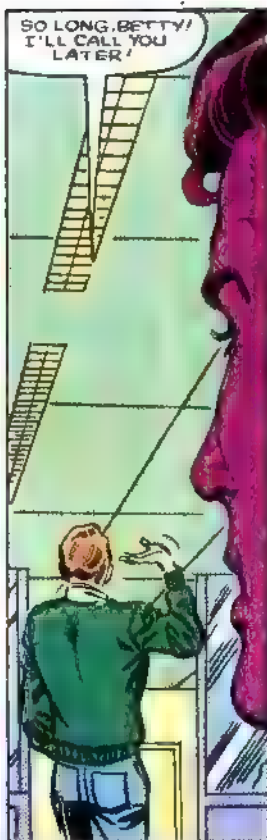
AND THAT'S WORSE, BECAUSE OF THE TOP-SECRET SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT HOUSED HERE, WE RESEARCH MEN HAVE TO DO THE CLEAN UP.

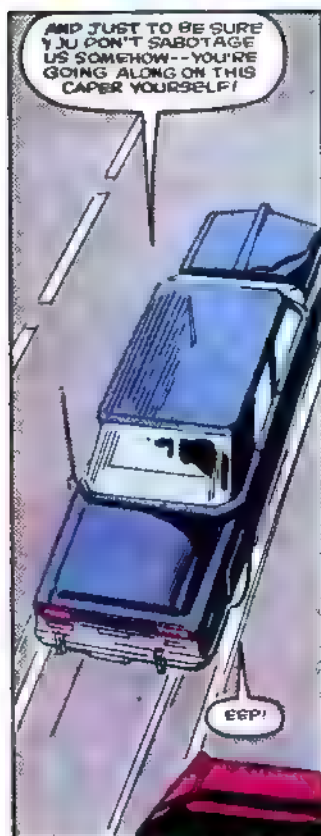
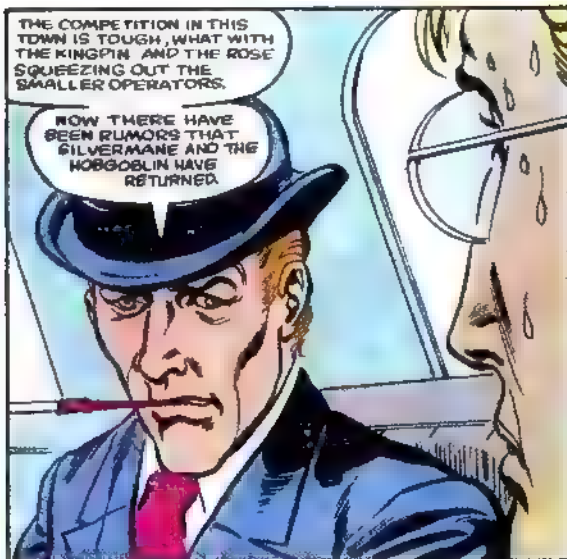
I KNOW WE CAN'T TRUST THE MAINTENANCE CREW TO SEE THE STUFF WE WORK WITH--

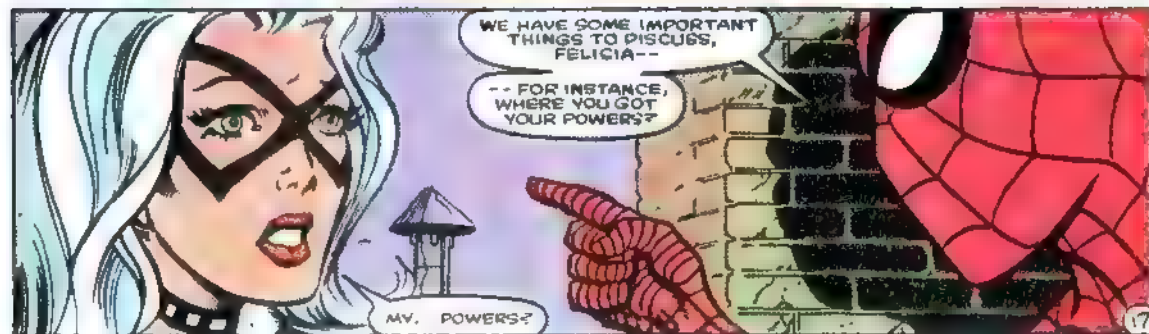
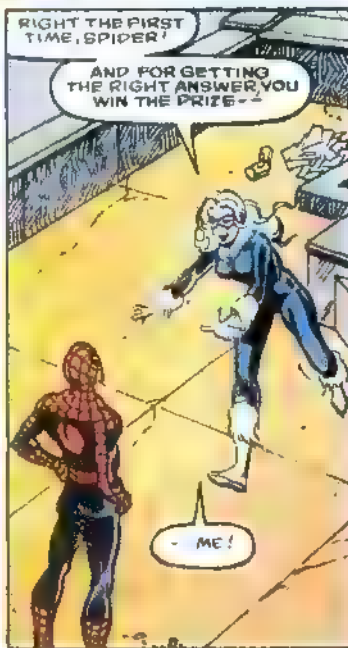


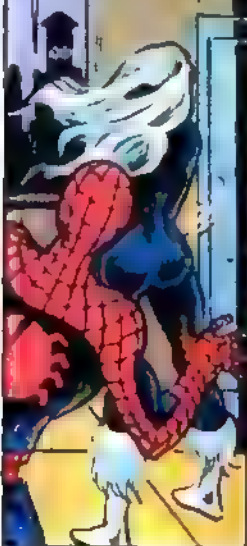
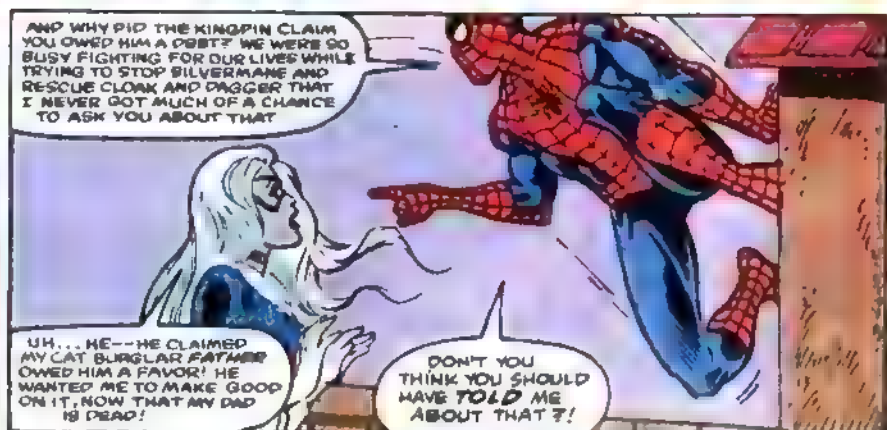
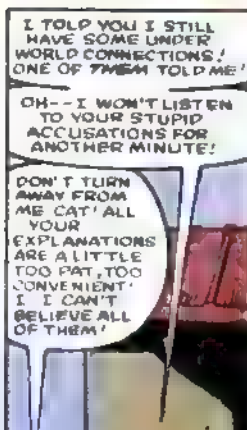
THE NEXT DAY, AT THE MIDTOWN OFFICES OF THE NEW YORK DAILY BUGLE

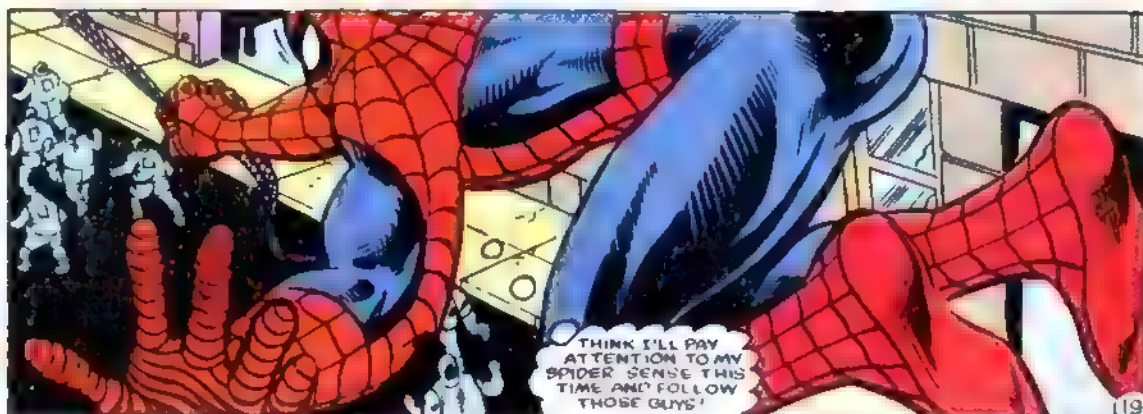
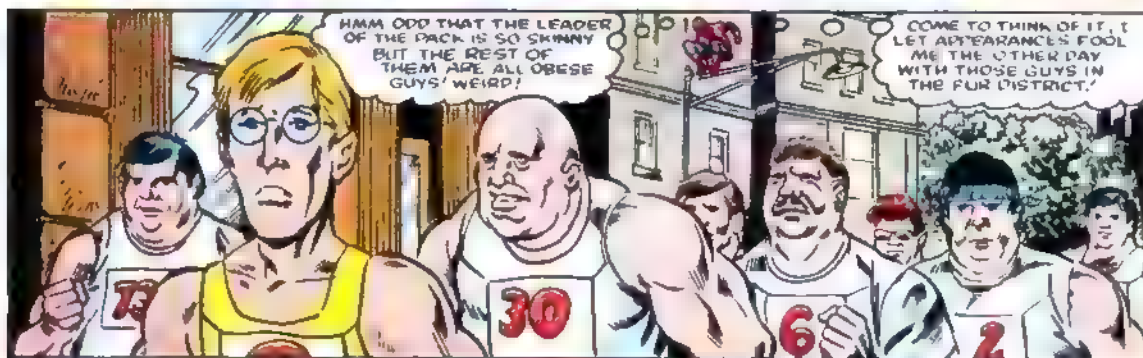
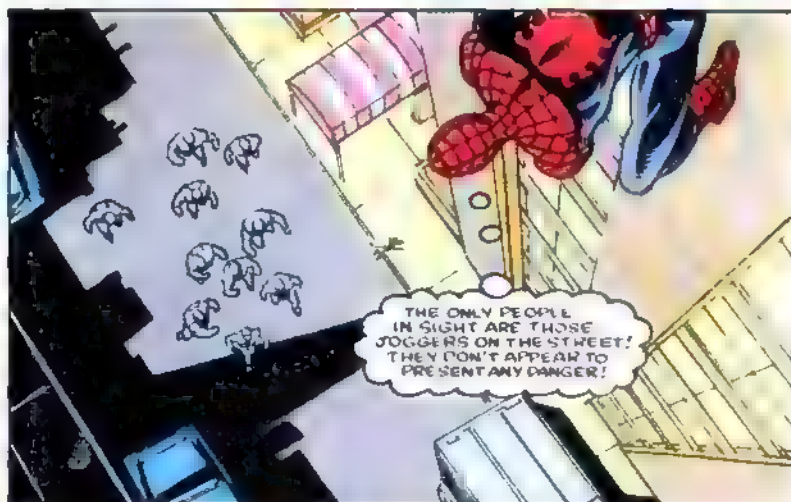


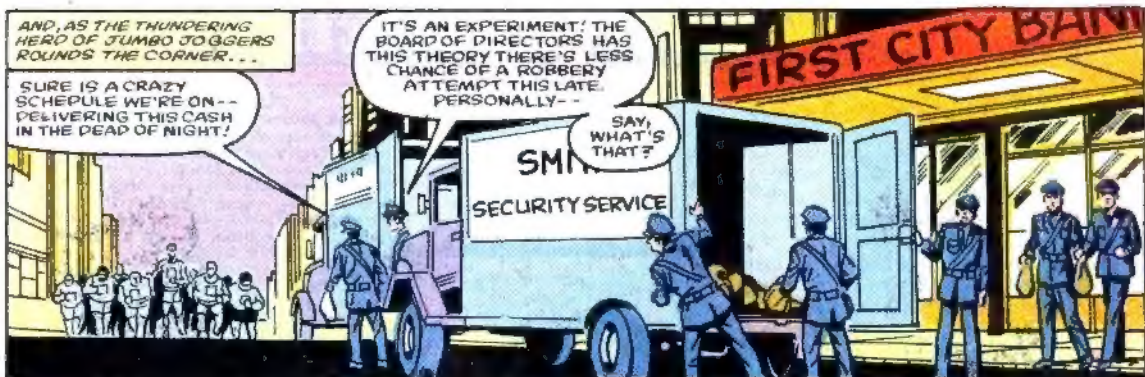












I'LL JUST SET UP MY TRUSTY OLD CAMERA SO I CAN GET JOE ROBERTSON SOME NICE, EXCLUSIVE PHOTOS OF THIS SCAM--





-- WHY'D YOU WARN ME, FELLA? YOU COULD HAVE GOTTEN AWAY IF HE'D NAILED ME. YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THIS GANG, AREN'T YOU?

I-I NEVER WANTED TO BE A PART OF THIS, SPIDER-MAN! BUT I WAS FORCED TO AT THE RISK OF MY VERY LIFE!

OKAY, MEN! YOU WANT THAT MONEY SO MUCH, WE'LL LET YOU SIT WITH IT-- AT LEAST UNTIL THE POLICE ARRIVE!



COME WITH ME, MISTER. SOMEHOW I BELIEVE YOU! YOU *DID* TRY TO WARN ME! LET'S GET AWAY FROM THE HUBBUB SO WE CAN TALK!

OH, MY... I THINK I'M GOING TO BE QUITE ILL!



AND SOON, ON A NEARBY ROOFTOP...

I DON'T THINK I LIKE THAT MODE OF TRAVEL.

IT GETS ME WHERE I WANT TO GO! NOW, SUPPOSE YOU TELL ME YOUR STORY!

TIMOTHY QUAIL OBLIGES.



SOON...

AND SO YOU SEE, SPIDER-MAN, ALL I EVER WANTED WAS TO BE LEFT ALONE. BUT DUE TO MY UNUSUAL GIFT PEOPLE HAVE HOUNDED ME ALL MY LIFE!

I WOULD HAVE BEEN QUITE HAPPY TO REMAIN IN MY CAVE IN TIBET, DRESSED IN RAGS, BUT EVEN THERE PEOPLE SOUGHT ME OUT!

THOUGH AT LEAST THERE, NO ONE FORCED ME TO COMMIT CRIMES.

DEAR ME, I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!



TIMOTHY, I THINK I HAVE THE ANSWER!

YOU DO?

YES, AND AS A MAN WHO USES HIS TALENTS SO SUCCESSFULLY IN ADVERTISING, I'M SURPRISED YOU DIDN'T THINK OF THIS SOLUTION YOURSELF!



ALL YOU REALLY HAVE TO DO TO GET WHAT YOU WANT IS... CHANGE YOUR PACKAGING!

?


AND IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW...

DAILY BUGLE

CRIME WAVE ENDED!!

SPIDER-MAN SOUGHT FOR QUESTIONING

MASKED ADVENTURER
SEEN LEAVING SCENE
WITH SUSPECT



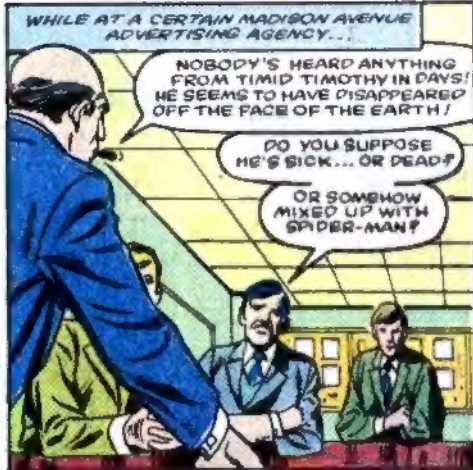
PHOTOS BY PETER PARKER

WHILE AT A CERTAIN MADISON AVENUE ADVERTISING AGENCY...

NOBODY'S HEARD ANYTHING FROM TIMID TIMOTHY IN DAYS! HE SEEMS TO HAVE DISAPPEARED OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH!

DO YOU SUPPOSE HE'S SICK... OR DEAD?

OR SOMEHOW MIXED UP WITH SPIDER-MAN?



SOMEHOW, KNOWING WHAT A STICKLER QUAIL WAS FOR PRIVACY, I'LL BET HE'S RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS OWN DISAPPEARANCE!

WELL, IN ANY CASE, IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE LOST A GREAT AD MAN!

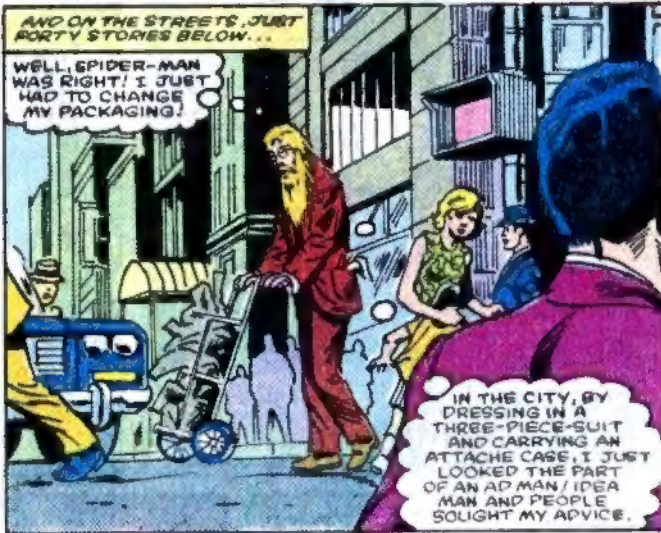
I JUST HOPE THAT WHEREVER HE IS... HE'S HAPPY!



AND ON THE STREETS, JUST FORTY STORIES BELOW...

WELL, SPIDER-MAN WAS RIGHT! I JUST HAD TO CHANGE MY PACKAGING!

IN THE CITY, BY DRESSING IN A THREE-PIECE-SUIT AND CARRYING AN ATTACHE CASE, I JUST LOOKED THE PART OF AN AD MAN / IDEA MAN AND PEOPLE SOUGHT MY ADVICE.



AND WHEN I LIVED IN TIBET, THE TATTERED CLOTHES AND LONG BEARD MADE ME LOOK ALL THE MORE LIKE A WISE PROPHET! PEOPLE FLOCKED TO ME SEEKING A GURU!

BUT BY SWITCHING THINGS AROUND-- BY DRESSING IN SIMPLE HERMIT-LIKE ROBES HERE IN NEW YORK--



-- AND BY USING A FEW SIMPLE PROPS LIKE THIS OLD SHOPPING CART FULL OF OVERFLOWING PAPER BAGS AND THIS FAKE BEARD--

-- PEOPLE AVOID ME LIKE THE PLAGUE!



I CAN GET ALL THE PRIVACY I WANT EVEN IN THE MIDDLE OF A CROWDED AVENUE!

MY OWN BEARD IS COMING ALONG PRETTY GOOD! I'LL BE ABLE TO GET RID OF THE FAKE BEARD PRETTY SOON!

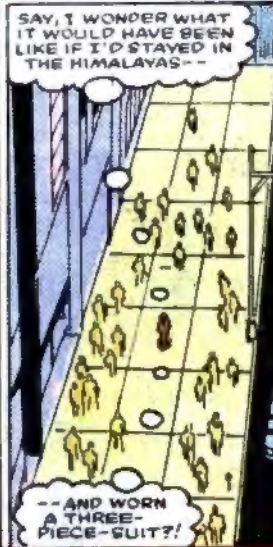
HEH HEH! THIS IS WONDERFUL!

GOT TO REMEMBER TO MUMBLE OUT LOUD TO MYSELF A LITTLE MORE!



SAY, I WONDER WHAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN LIKE IF I'D STAYED IN THE HIMALAYAS--

-- AND WORN A THREE-PIECE-SUIT?!



NEXT: TRUE CONFESSIONS!